

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An apparatus for forming a two-dimensional image by light modulation, comprising:

a coherent light source;

a diffuser for diffusing light;

an illumination optical system for irradiating the diffuser with light emitted from the coherent light source;

a diffuser vibration unit for vibrating the diffuser; and

a spatial light modulator disposed near the diffuser, said modulator modulating the light that is emitted from the coherent light source and diffused by the diffuser;

wherein said diffuser vibration unit vibrates the diffuser at a velocity that satisfies an expression,

$$V > d \times 30 \text{ (millimeters/sec)}$$

which is established between the grain size d of the diffuser and the velocity V for vibrating the diffuser.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for forming a two-dimensional image by light modulation, comprising:

a coherent light source;

a diffuser for diffusing light;

an illumination optical system for irradiating the diffuser with light emitted from the coherent light source;

a spatial light modulator disposed near the diffuser, said modulator modulating the light that is emitted from the coherent light source and diffused by the diffuser; and

a projector lens for projecting an image which is obtained by light modulation by the spatial light modulator, on a certain plane in space;

wherein a diffusion angle θ of the diffuser, ~~is determined on the basis of~~ a substantial numerical aperture NA_{in} of the illumination optical system, and a brightness f of the projector lens satisfy an expression,

$\theta/2 + \sin^{-1}(NA_{in}) < 2 \times \tan^{-1}(1/2f).$

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for forming a two-dimensional image by light modulation, comprising:

a coherent light source;

a diffuser for diffusing light;

an illumination optical system for irradiating the diffuser with light emitted from the coherent light source;

a spatial light modulator disposed near the diffuser, said modulator modulating the light that is emitted from the coherent light source and diffused by the diffuser; and

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a projector lens for projecting an image that is obtained by light modulation by the spatial light modulator, on a certain plane in space;

wherein a distance L between the spatial light modulator and the diffuser, are separated from each other by a distance that is determined on the basis of a diffusion angle θ of the diffuser, a substantial numerical aperture NA_{in} of the illumination optical system, and a screen size D of the spatial light modulator in a diagonal direction satisfy an expression,
 $(\theta/2 + \sin^{-1}(NA_{in})) \times L < D/3$.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) An apparatus for forming a two-dimensional image by light modulation, comprising:

a coherent light source;

a diffuser for diffusing light;

an illumination optical system for irradiating the diffuser with light emitted from the coherent light source;

a spatial light modulator disposed near the diffuser, said modulator modulating the light that is emitted from the coherent light source and diffused by the diffuser; and

a projector lens for projecting an image of the spatial light modulator on a certain plane in space;

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wherein the spatial light modulator and the diffuser are separated from each other by a distance that is determined on the basis of a pitch of unevenness in the transmissivity of the diffuser, and a substantial numerical aperture of the illumination optical system.

7. (Original) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 6 wherein a relationship,

$$L \times N_{Ain} > P$$

is established among the pitch P of unevenness in the transmissivity of the diffuser, the substantial numerical aperture N_{Ain} of the illumination optical system, and the distance L between the spatial light modulator and the diffuser.

8. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein said illumination optical system includes a light integrator.

9. (Original) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 8 wherein said light integrator comprises at least two lens arrays.

10. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 8 wherein said light integrator comprises a rod type light integrator.

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11. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 1 wherein said diffuser comprises a pseudo random diffuser having a surface which is processed so as to obtain a desired diffusion angle.
12. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 11 wherein said pseudo random diffuser is obtained by partitioning a surface of a transparent substrate in a lattice pattern to provide plural cell areas, and processing the cell areas so that adjacent cell areas have different heights.
13. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 12 wherein in said pseudo random diffuser obtained by processing a transparent substrate, a difference in heights between adjacent cell areas is set so that the phases of light beam passing through these cell areas are shifted by $\pi/4$ from each other.
14. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 11 wherein said pseudo random diffuser has a concave-convex surface configuration in which the level of the surface thereof varies continuously.
15. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 2 wherein said illumination optical system includes a light integrator.

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16. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 15 wherein said light integrator comprises at least two lens arrays.
17. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 15 wherein said light integrator comprises a rod type light integrator.
18. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 4 wherein said illumination optical system includes a light integrator.
19. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 18 wherein said light integrator comprises at least two lens arrays.
20. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 18 wherein said light integrator comprises a rod type light integrator.
21. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 6 wherein said illumination optical system includes a light integrator.
22. (Previously Presented) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 21 wherein said light integrator comprises at least two lens arrays.

23. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 21 wherein said light integrator comprises a rod type light integrator.

24. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 2 wherein said diffuser comprises a pseudo random diffuser having a surface which is processed so as to obtain a desired diffusion angle.

25. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 24 wherein said pseudo random diffuser is obtained by partitioning a surface of a transparent substrate in a lattice pattern to provide plural cell areas, and processing the cell areas so that adjacent cell areas have different heights.

26. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 25 wherein in said pseudo random diffuser obtained by processing a transparent substrate, a difference in heights between adjacent cell areas is set so that the phases of light beam passing through these cell areas are shifted by $\pi/4$ from each other.

27. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 24 wherein said pseudo random diffuser has a concave-convex surface configuration in which the level of the surface thereof varies continuously.

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28. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 4 wherein said diffuser comprises a pseudo random diffuser having a surface which is processed so as to obtain a desired diffusion angle.

29. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 28 wherein said pseudo random diffuser is obtained by partitioning a surface of a transparent substrate in a lattice pattern to provide plural cell areas, and processing the cell areas so that adjacent cell areas have different heights.

30. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 29 wherein in said pseudo random diffuser obtained by processing a transparent substrate, a difference in heights between adjacent cell areas is set so that the phases of light beam passing through these cell areas are shifted by $\pi/4$ from each other.

31. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 28 wherein said pseudo random diffuser has a concave-convex surface configuration in which the level of the surface thereof varies continuously.

32. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 6 wherein said diffuser comprises a pseudo random diffuser having a surface which is processed so as to obtain a desired diffusion angle.

33. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 32 wherein said pseudo random diffuser is obtained by partitioning a surface of a transparent substrate in a lattice pattern to provide plural cell areas, and processing the cell areas so that adjacent cell areas have different heights.

34. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 33 wherein in said pseudo random diffuser obtained by processing a transparent substrate, a difference in heights between adjacent cell areas is set so that the phases of light beam passing through these cell areas are shifted by $\pi/4$ from each other.

35. (Withdrawn) A two-dimensional image formation apparatus as defined in Claim 32 wherein said pseudo random diffuser has a concave-convex surface configuration in which the level of the surface thereof varies continuously.